

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, claims 2, 7 and 8 were objected to because of an informality in claims 2 and 7. The Examiner kindly suggested an appropriate amendment to overcome the informality.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Nagashima '547. Claims 7-8 were indicated to be allowable upon correction of the informality noted by the Examiner.

Claims 3-4 and 9-20 were withdrawn from further consideration as being directed to a non-elected species.

In accordance with this response, applicants have elected to accept the allowable claims in order to expedite issuance of their patent. Independent claim 7 has been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner to overcome the informal objection, thereby placing claim 7 and dependent claim 8 in allowable form. All of the remaining claims have been canceled.

The specification has been amended to update the status of the parent application.

As only allowable claims 7-8 remain pending in the application, the application is now believed to be in allowable form. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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March 2, 2005

Date